

FROM THE BABYLON OF THE WEST

readiness ; but it was not until October 2 that the Pope actually embarked. It seemed that he had wished to postpone his departure from his beloved native land as long as possible. " O God," writes Pietro Amelio da Aleste, the Augustinian Bishop of Sinigaglia, " who could ever imagine how copious and bitter were the cries and wailing and lamentations that arose ! Never was such sorrow known. The Pope himself wept. Every cheek was wet with tears ; the hearts of all seemed breaking."¹ The fleet moved slowly from port to port along the Riviera, encountering terrible weather at sea, and at length, on October 18 reached Genoa.

And here Catherine and her company were awaiting the Pope's coming. She had left Avignon on the day of his departure September 13, and thence travelled by land, for which the Pope and the Duke of Anjou had provided her with the requisite means. We have glimpses of her on the way at Toulon, where writes Fra Raimondo, " albeit we were silent, the very stones seemed to cry that the holy virgin had arrived in the city," and where she miraculously healed a child ; and again at Voragine (the modern Varazze), which she found depopulated by the pestilence. She promised the survivors a brighter future for their town, commending it to the special protection of the Blessed Trinity and the Madonna.² Early in October, she reached Genoa ; where, with all her company, she stayed for a month in the house of a noble lady of the city, Madonna Orietta Scotti, whose husband, Messer Barnaba Scotti, is said to have been descended from a Scotch soldier of fortune who came to Italy in the days of Charlemagne.

The tossing on the seas had shaken the Pope's nerves, and the news he received on landing increased his dismay. On October 12, the Eight had written from Florence to the Romans, professing astonishment at their belief in the coming of the Pope, who was lingering at Marseilles and looking for an excuse to

¹ *Itinerarium Domini Gregorii Papae XI*, A long and detailed composition in leonine verses, in *Rer. It. Script.*, lii. 2.

² Cf. Augusta Drane, II. pp. 6-8.